

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXCISE
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SENT TO: Amlegation, HELSINKI 193
RPTD INFO: Amembassy, MOSCOW 321

Origin

Info

Awaiting with interest your appraisal Soviet offer to Finns revealed by Kekkonen as reported Helsinki AP story November 18. Assume you will obtain views high Finnish officials.

AP story claims Soviets offered negotiate for possible return territory ceded by Finland, mentioning Saimaa Canal. Not clear whether transfer territory involved or merely use of canal. In latter case Finns presumably alert to difficulties and pressures could arise if Finns began extensive use of a canal under Soviet control.

Other concessions reportedly offered included converting Finland's ruble surplus into Western currencies, increased Soviet purchases of Finnish products, and a substantial Soviet loan.

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